



# BELLEVILLE - AREA INDEPENDENT

Vol. 21.52 Thursday, December 24, 2015 Serving the Communities of Belleville, Sumpter and Van Buren **F R E E**



The City of Belleville's Holiday Decorating Contest's top business winner is Photography by Shannon at 309 Main Street.

*Independent photos by Bob Mytych*



The Morin Family at 77 Carmell Street won the top award in the Mobile Home Parks category.



Christopher and Tracee Kloian of 253 Harbour Pointe Drive won the top award in the Harbour Pointe category.



John and Lisa Wysocki of 185 E. Huron River Drive won the top award for the "Balance of Belleville" category.



Ronald and Donna Adkins of 461 Waterbury won the top award in the Victoria Commons category.

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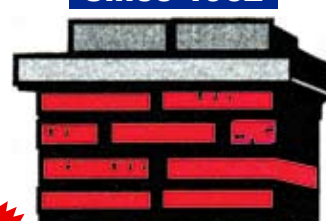
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# SECOND FRONT PAGE

## VBT approves ordinance banning coal tar driveway sealant

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

"Christmas came early for me this year," said Dr. David Wilson on Dec. 15 after the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees voted unanimously to approve the second and final reading of an ordinance prohibiting the use of coal tar products in the township.

"Thank you very, very much," Dr. Wilson said.

Trustee Jeff Jahr called Dr. Wilson and Rebecca Esselman up to the microphone to recognize the efforts the two had put into enacting the ordinance.

Esselman, of the Huron River Watershed Council, had alerted Wilson to the carcinogenic properties of PAHs in coal tar. Wilson, a member of VBT's Environmental Commission, got to work to promote an ordinance to save local children, especially, from the cancer-causing substance in driveway sealants.

"We hope to get your neighbors on board," Esselman said to the VBT Board. When asked to tell briefly what the Huron River Watershed Council was she said it is a group tasked with the health of the river that goes through Belleville Lake.

Wilson and Esselman said they believe the use of coal tar products as sealants would be banned across the country eventually.

In other business at the 38-minute meeting on Dec. 15, the board:

- Removed from the agenda proposed Stormwater Maintenance Agreements with Costco Wholesale and Belleview Commercial (Starbucks location) because of an ongoing conflict with the county over the legality of the required process;

- Approved Supervisor Linda Combs' appointment of John Delaney to the Local Development Finance Authority with a term to expire Aug. 12, 2017. The vote was 5-1 with Trustee Brenda McClanahan voting no and Supervisor Combs absent. Trustee Reggie Miller said she talked to Combs and, "Linda wanted this on the agenda and wanted John approved." Trustee Phil Hart said he, too, spoke with Combs and she said Delaney attends most of the LDFA meetings and is an asset to the group;

- Heard Clerk Leon Wright announce the clerk's office and township hall will be closed beginning Dec. 24 through Jan. 3 for the holidays. He also said in an attempt to increase morale in the township the previous week they had had employee appreciation activities paid for by donations from department heads and the insurance company. The "massage" item on the voucher list had brought many comments at the work/study session on Dec. 14. Clerk Wright thanked Nicole Sumpter, who is doing HR work, for putting this on and

collecting more than \$500 in donations. He said Trustee Hart bought hot dogs for the Friday event;

- Heard Clerk Wright give a political speech after a bill he didn't like passed the state Senate. He asked residents to call their elected state representatives to head off the passage of the bill in the House. It had to do with not being able to vote straight party tickets and he stated, "In 70% of past Presidential elections, Democrats voted straight party tickets." Wright is a Democrat. He also said he was afraid the bill he supported to allow absentee ballots for no reason would be detached from the other bill. He opposed having to present an ID for a first-time vote since his son is at Central Michigan University and would have to come back to VBT to vote. He said next year's ballot might be 3-4 pages long and there could be long lines of voters at the polls;

- Heard Clerk Sharry Budd announce that when the township hall is closed people will be able to drop their tax payments in the drop box in the Public Safety Department, the outdoor drop box at the front of the township hall, or mail it in. Postmarks will be honored and taxes in the drop boxes when they get back in January will be counted as paid by the end of the year;

- Heard Clerk Wright said he missed a 5:14 a.m. call from the Public Safety Department the previous Sunday and around 8 a.m. checked his phone and learned about the house fire. He went there immediately. He said fire fighter John Henderson is a hero and he deserves something special from the township.

- Heard Trustee Hart wish the best to Supervisor Combs and her family as they tend to Combs' gravely ill husband;

- Heard Police Officer Adam Byrd list places people could send donations for survivors of the house fire. He said they will be putting out jars at different businesses to collect donations;

- Heard Don Schoenberger, who has been an outspoken and fearless resident, say this is the last time he'll talk at a meeting because he is going to be selling his house in May so he doesn't have to pay the township's legacy costs. He referred to the board as a "bunch of mannequins sitting in your seats" and noted he was sorry the supervisor is going through a lot with her family. He then referred to a speaker who is "self-absorbed in his own ignorance ... and acts like a genius." He said somebody talks about taxes and is criticized for not being on the tax rolls, but that doesn't mean the person isn't paying property taxes. "If I've offended anybody over the years, that's too bad," he concluded and left the meeting room; and



Independent photo by Rosemary K. Otzman

Dr. David Wilson, left, of the Van Buren Township Environmental Commission, and Rebecca Esselman of the Huron River Watershed Council, were present at the Dec. 15 meeting of the VBT Board of Trustees where the ordinance against coal tar driveway sealants was approved. They have been championing the ordinance for months.

- Heard Delaney agree that the Stormwater Maintenance Agreement process should be opposed. He also thanked Combs for the

nomination and thanked those who voted yes for him to be on the LDFA, which he said "was for the good of the township."

## VBT Environmental Commission celebrates new coal tar ordinance

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

At its Dec. 16 meeting, members of the Van Buren Township Environmental Commission congratulated themselves on the township's new ordinance banning the carcinogenic coal tar sealants on driveways, playgrounds, and other surfaces.

The second reading and final approval of the ordinance was given by the township board the day before, on Dec. 15.

Planning and Economic Director Matthew Best, who took the commission's proposed ordinance to the township attorney and then to the board, said the use of coal tar will be prohibited in the township as of publication of the ordinance in the Independent on Dec. 24.

He said now information on sealants must be placed on the site plans and he believes Craig Atchinson's Ford project will be the first in the township to have it on a site plan.

Best said the township plans to have a meeting in the spring with those companies that apply sealcoats to explain the ordinance to them before the season begins. He said the plan is for voluntary compliance through education.

Dr. David Wilson, a member of the commission, said Rebecca Esselman of the Huron River Watershed Council said VBT is the only jurisdiction in the country to have a maximum of PAHs allowed, referring to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons.

Best said the New Tech program at Belleville High School is planning to do a project on coal tar by making a commercial on the dangers of coal tar sealant and put it on the VBT cable channel.

Dr. Wilson said he tried to talk to the Belleville Mayor about an ordinance for the city, but he got no response. He said his words to her were like throwing a stone in a deep, deep well and never hearing it hit.

(continued on page 15)

# OPINIONS

## Editorial

### What are we to do about squatters?

Those who deal in real estate know about squatters. These are people who move into vacant homes and won't move out. One local Realtor had to buy a company car so his employees could drive around weekly to each of the homes they were trying to sell to make sure nobody had moved into them.

Information on the laws on squatters is confusing, but seem to favor those who wish to move into someone else's empty house and not pay rent, or utilities, or taxes, or anything else.

The house that burned on Denton Road on Dec. 13 had been identified by neighbors as having had squatters for FOUR YEARS. Nobody did anything about it when neighbors called the township building and police departments.

VBT Deputy Director of Public Safety – Police Jason Wright wrote an email reply to concerned citizen CeJay Marshall on the subject saying, “Just so you know the minute the irresponsible rumors began flowing in the media we were on it. We are trying to seek the facts. I have been meeting with our detective bureau routinely. Since the cause has not been finalized yet by the MSP fire marshal division and our fire investigators I am being very cautious to speak about the case. Eventually we can talk about [it].”

We're looking forward to VBT Police and other township officials talking about it. If we can prevent another fire, like the one that killed a teenager -- and brought another child to the brink of death -- all efforts will be worth it. Let's talk about it.

## EXTRA THINGS I KNOW

Millie Sheldon of Church Street called with a happy Christmas story to tell.

She said she and her husband have had a rough year financially because they have had to pay for their own insurance. They went shopping at Meijer on Monday and she and her husband were using Amigos because they are disabled.

She said she got a few extra things in their baskets, and felt a little guilty, and when they went to check out, a young black lady helped with loading their groceries for them.

She said the lady leaned over and said quietly to her, “Would you mind if I bought your groceries?” Millie said her hearing isn't as good as it used to be and so she didn't believe what she heard and asked the lady to repeat it. “The Lord told me to bless you,” the woman said and Millie started crying.

She said it was almost \$200 worth of groceries. “I didn't get her name and I'm standing there crying,” she said. Then she told her husband to tell the lady thank you and when they turned around, the lady was gone.

She said her husband didn't know what was going on and why she was crying. Millie felt so bad she didn't get the lady's name.

Millie said she will be writing a letter to the *Independent*, but she wanted to share this with our readers now. She said there are so many bad stories in the papers, she wanted us to have a good story in time for Christmas. She said she is happy to report that there are many good people in our world.

\*\*\*

...By Rosemary K. Otzman



Barber Bob's Charlie Brown Christmas decorations won a top prize in the Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce decorating contest, so he received a \$200 check. Then, he wrote a \$200 check to the Make A Wish Foundation and we helped him find the place to send it. Nice.

\*\*\*

Belleville Police Cpl. Todd Schrecengost said Belleville emergency crews have used Narcon successfully three times. He was referring to last week's front-page story about the Sumpter Township Board of Trustees recently approving the Fire Department procedure for using Narcon.

Belleville didn't discuss Narcon at a council meeting, so we didn't know they were using it, too.

Cpl. Schrecengost said it is amazing to see a person who has overdosed with opiates immediately pop out of a coma state after Narcon is administered. But, they have to have a heart beat or it doesn't work.

I read that the Wayne County Sheriff's Department also is using the life-saving Narcon.

\*\*\*

One of the victims of the now-disbarred Belleville attorney Tom White tells us she received a letter from the Wayne County Prosecutor's office advising her that White's prison sentence has been reduced by a year. He was to serve until April 8, 2021 and now it's until April 8, 2020. Probably for good behavior.

\*\*\*

Last week I was told of Belleville Road being blocked by an accident in front of Starbucks. I remember all the discussions at the Van Buren Township Planning Commission about how dangerous that stretch of Belleville Road is around the I-94 North Service Drive when they were talking about the Starbucks' project. The planners wouldn't let Starbucks have the second curb cut they wanted because of the dangers there.

This isn't the last time we'll have the road blocked there for a traffic accident, methinks, even without the second curb cut.

\*\*\*

Our offices will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day, but otherwise the *Independent* will be open its regular hours throughout the holidays and publishing on Thursdays. If you need us, we'll be open. We wish everyone a wonderful Christmas celebration and the relief that comes when it's all over and everyone can relax.

Don't forget the reason for the season. We're a Christian nation celebrating the birth of Jesus the Christ. Others celebrate other holidays and other religions, but our nation was based on Christian thought and we shouldn't forget it. Merry Christmas.



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**BELLEVILLE - AREA**

**INDEPENDENT**

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"Duct tape is like the force. It has a light side, a dark side, and it holds the universe together..."  
 - Carl Zwanzig

**"A discussion is an exchange of knowledge;  
 an argument is an exchange of ignorance"**

**--Robert Quillen**



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**Letters**

**Make sure it never happens again in VBT**

To the Editor:

I would like to share with your readers a letter I wrote to Van Buren Township Supervisor Linda Combs.

Dear Supervisor Combs:

The community has been utterly shocked by the death of 14-year-old Savion Robinson who heroically saved the life of his 18-month-old infant sister in the house fire on Denton Road earlier this month. This awful tragedy is difficult for many to fathom or understand, especially since the circumstances were such that perhaps this fire should never have happened? If it is true that the DTE electrical meter was by-passed with an "illegal hook-up" then someone (parents) should face prosecution for child endangerment and charged with manslaughter.

How is it that "squatters" should be allowed to live in a dwelling in this community for, reportedly, 4 years? Yes, the bank holds the mortgage on the house, however, the township has a responsibility to inspect any property not in compliance with township building ordinances ... as was reported in the Independent newspaper. If the excessive grass height was the first indication of a problem with this property then certainly over a 4-year period someone from the township should have made repeated follow-up inspections of the site. If this isn't the case I wonder why? If it were within the realm of our legal capabilities, I should hope that nothing of this sort ever happens again in Van Buren Township.

We owe it to the heroism of Savion Robinson, who gave his life willingly that his younger sibling might live, that this must never be permitted to happen again.

Banks and lending institutions must be held responsible to board up properties that have sat abandoned for more than 12 months and no one should be allowed to steal utility service, or water and sewer provisions in Van Buren Township.

The time to act has already passed and now it is incumbent on the Trustees to follow through and take the appropriate measures to insure that this young man isn't forgotten and the tragedy never repeats itself.

May God bless Savion for eternity,  
 CeJay Marshall  
 Van Buren Township

**Editor's Note:** We need to report we have learned that the little girl who was burned so badly was Savion's niece, not his sister as we first reported.

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**Call to create a new normal in community**

To the Editor:

Recently in downtown Belleville I saw a fellow citizen wearing a sweatshirt that said something along the lines of: "Vegetarian is the ancient word for the village idiot who couldn't catch any food."

My boyfriend and I, both intelligent villagers who chose to eat a vegan diet, were only slightly surprised to see something like this in Belleville. I grew up in a place where it is common to top vegetables with bacon bits and eat it with your steak (not in Belleville, but perhaps a similar city).

I can understand how strange the decision to forgo animal products in your diet seems to those who have never been exposed to such a lifestyle. What opened my eyes was learning more about the meat industry and meeting people - nice, fun people - who were vegan. What we think is "normal" is really just what we are used to - it is all relative to our personal experience. When we educated ourselves on all sides of an issue, and understand the bias that our personal perspective projects onto our experiences, only then can we make informed decisions.

I ask that the restaurants of Belleville help normalize the choice to eat a vegetarian or vegan diet by offering more plant-based meals on their menus. This would make Belleville dining a more attractive option for locals choosing to go meatless.

If you care about animals, the environment, or your health, you may want to consider eating less animal products. The disconnection between food and where it comes from is scary - we even call it "beef" instead of "cow" so we can mentally separate our food from the familiar animal we all know. I hope that more Belleville residents educate themselves about the factory farm industry. Factory farming causes animal cruelty, negative environmental impact, and even human health concerns. Together we can create a new "normal" in our city, one that encourages compassion and understanding for all.

Amelia Rodgers

**Birthdays**

Dec. 20 - James Chapman  
 Dec. 27 - Janet Millard  
 Jan. 1 - Ray Heininger  
 Jan. 2 - Thelma Blanck

Do you have a birthday in January? Does any one you know have a birthday soon? Call the *Independent* at 699-9020 and let us know. We'll list it in this column ASAP following your call. There is no charge.

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 - Rupert Murdoch

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 - Rupert Murdoch

## More Letters

### Thank you for helping Sumpter's party for kids

To the Editor:

I would like to take this opportunity to extend a most heartfelt thank you to all those that donated to the 2015 Sumpter Township Annual Children's Christmas Party.

I would like to acknowledge the following sponsors:

The Sumpter Township Board of Trustees, the Sumpter Township Parks and Recreation Commission, Utilities Management Service, Wolverine Power, Martin & Son, Atlantic Welding, RP Construction, Avengers MC, Burnham & Flower Agency, Friends of MI Animal Rescue, Mr. Nelson Po, Keller's Real Farm Bakery, CRG Electric, Benito's 5 Star, The Bake Shoppe, Davenport Brothers Construction Co., Inc., Burhop Collision, WCA Assessing, Belleville Area Chamber of Commerce, Republic Services, Judge David Parrott, Alan D. Bates, Bikers United, Higgerson & Neal Funeral Home, Fox Auto Parts, David C. Brown Funeral Home, Post, Smythe, Lutz & Ziel of Wayne, Belleville Rotary Club, Honey Pest Control, Jeff Wiseman, Katherine Honey, United Way Washtenaw County (Pedersons) and the sponsors that asked to remain anonymous.

A special thanks to the numerous volunteers that selflessly contributed their time to insure the success of the Children's

Christmas Party. Without the generosity of those that contributed, not only monetarily but with their time, this event could not remain the success and tradition it has become.

Wishing all a Merry Christmas and a safe and Happy New Year.

John W. Morgan

Sumpter Township Supervisor

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## Things to do in the Belleville area...

• **Thursday, Dec. 31** – Van Buren Eagles will welcome in the year 2016 with a New Year's Eve party. Doors open at 6:30 p.m. with catered dinner at 7:30 p.m. and entertainment at 9 p.m. Music by Second Wind (classic rock). Tickets are \$25, which include dinner, champagne toast

at midnight, party favors and entertainment. Tickets on sale now.

• **Thursday, Dec. 31** – Romulus New Year's Eve party will fund free movies in the city this summer on the city's 30-foot, new inflatable screen. Tickets for the party are \$50 each at city hall and include a full dinner, beer and wine, a champagne toast at midnight, music and dancing. Held at Romulus Progressive Hall. Call through Dec. 28 for information at 941-8665.

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## Obituaries

### ROBERT KEITH MESTON

(October 5, 1946 – December 19, 2015)

Robert Keith Meston, age 69, of Van Buren Township, MI, passed away Saturday, December 19, 2015 at his home. He was born October 5, 1946, in Bay City, MI, son of Burwell Keith & Christina Anna (Withers) Meston.

He grew up in Charlevoix and graduated from Kalamazoo Central High School. He attended Western and received his Doctorate of Law from University of Detroit. Prior to his recent decline in health, Robert was a very active member in the community (Kiwanis Club Member, any fundraiser he was involved in, sponsored little baseball teams, etc.). Robert was raised with a modest upbringing and a desire to help others. This foundation helped shape his career as an attorney.

He enjoyed hunting, fishing, sports, working with his hands, reading and spending time with his family. Robert was a caring father and loving husband. Robert also loved animals. Over the years, he rescued several stray dogs and a few pit bulls.

Mr. Meston is survived by his loving wife of 42 years Patricia Ann (Martin) Meston; daughter Catherine (Jeanrard Geerman) Meston of Aruba; two sons Owen Keith Meston of Columbus, Ohio and Jesse (Meredith) Meston of Clark Lake, MI; aunt Gladys Audrey Meston of Grand Haven, MI; brother Christopher Meston of Rapid City, South Dakota; two sisters Karen Meston of Hot Springs, South Dakota and Nancy (Steve) Walker of Hastings, MI; niece Nicole (Bo Jones) Richardson of Georgia; nephew Joshua Richardson of Hastings, MI; great-niece Briana; also numerous other family and friends. He was preceded in death by his parents, also a grandson Barrett Matthew Meston.

Cremation rites have been accorded. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to Friends of Michigan Animal Rescue and would be appreciated by his family. Please sign his on-line guest book and share a story at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).



Archie B. Kennedy

### ARCHIE B. KENNEDY

(November 12, 1931 – December 17, 2015)

Archie B. Kennedy, resident of Belleville (Van Buren Township) passed away at home peacefully the age of 84. Archie retired from Kelsey Hayes of Romulus after 30 years in 1993.

He leaves behind his beloved wife Dianne Kennedy of 28 years, brother Gary Kennedy, his children, grand children, great grand children, extended family and friends.

We are pleased to say, Archie lived a long, happy, healthy life.

### STEVEN CHARLES BLAKE

(December 8, 1961 – December 17, 2015)

Age 54 of Sumpter Township. Survived by his children Amber and Kyle Blake, fiancée Audrey Smith, mother Geraldine Peters, siblings Richard, Todd, Megan, and Jessica. David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville.



Verdys Kathryn Shephard

### VERDYS KATHRYN SHEPHARD

(November 17, 1914 – December 19, 2015)

Verdys Kathryn Shephard, age 101 years, month and 2 days, passed away Saturday, December 19, 2015 at Huron Woods, Ann Arbor, MI. She was born November 17, 1914 in Oelwein, Iowa, daughter of Edward Henry & Cerilda "Rilla" (Hoppes) Jahncke.

She was one of twelve graduates of Belleville High School class of 1933. She was the oldest founding member, since 1926, of First United Methodist Church, Belleville. She was also a founding member of September Days Senior Citizens. She retired from Van Buren Public Schools after 30 years of working in the cafeterias. She began at the high school, worked at Quirk elementary for a while and retired from Elwell elementary. She enjoyed decorating cakes, especially for birthdays and weddings, and even catered weddings. She also enjoyed crocheting, taking notes and was a spur of the moment poet. She also loved counting things. She would work outside and pick up sticks or raspberries, and she always counted them. Most of all, she loved time spent with and entertaining her family.

Mrs. Shephard is survived by daughter Diane (Roger) Ferguson of Belleville, MI; two sons James (Mary Kate) Shephard of Dexter, MI and Brian (Nancy) Shephard of Belleville; 7 grandchildren; 9 great-grandchildren and another on-the-way. She was preceded in death by her parents, husband Arthur W. Shephard in 1982, also two brothers Dellas Jahncke and Richard F. Jahncke in 2010.

Visitation was 3-8 PM Tuesday, December 22, 2015 and 10-11 AM Wednesday, December 23, 2015 with an 11:00 AM Funeral at David C. Brown Funeral Home, 460 E. Huron River Dr., Belleville, MI 48111 (734) 697-4500. Interment followed in Soop Cemetery, Van Buren Township, MI.

Memorial contributions may be made to Huron Woods, Trinity Healthcare Systems, and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a memory at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).

## More Obituaries on pages 8

## Upcoming Meetings

• Monday, Jan. 11 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m. Also, Van Buren Public Schools Board of Education organizational meeting and regular meeting, 7 p.m., BHS

• Tuesday, Jan. 12 – Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7 p.m. Also, Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

• Wednesday, Jan. 20 – Van Buren Township Environmental Commission meeting, 7 p.m.

• Monday, Feb. 1 – Van Buren Township work/study session, 4 p.m.

• Tuesday, Feb. 2 – Van Buren Township regular board meeting, 7 p.m.

• Tuesday, Feb. 9 – Belleville Area District Library Board, 7:30 p.m.

# Obituaries



Elmerine Jane Miller

## ELMERINE JANE MILLER

(September 25, 1936 – December 13, 2015)

Mrs. Elmerine Jane Miller passed away peacefully Sunday, December 13, 2015 at the Cedar Woods Assisted Living in Belleville, Michigan. She was born September 25, 1936 in Detroit, Michigan a daughter of Steve Douglas and Emerine Leone (Bastien) Snyder. On May 10, 1956 she was married to the love of her life Robert Donald Miller in Clinton, Michigan moving to Belleville from Garden City in 1986. Mr. Miller preceded her in death on August 31, 2000. It brings peace to our hearts knowing that they are together again.

Mrs. Miller, or "Ellie" as she was lovingly referred to, was a member of the Sumpter Township Senior Center for 10 years. She was a kind, caring, gentle, and loving soul. She never met anybody she didn't try to befriend. Ellie loved her friends and family in a way that made you know without a shadow of a doubt, you were loved. She loved gardening, especially tending to her roses. You could find Ellie outside doing many activities such as camping, fishing and walking on the lake. She loved her dog Harley, who predeceased her. Elvis Presley was her favorite and she was a fan of country music, along with music from the '50s and '60s. She loved to sing and dance. She enjoyed bowling. Ellie was a wonderful caretaker and always known as a practical jokester who loved life. Prior to her retirement in 1990 she had been employed by American House as a cook for many years.

Mrs. Miller is survived by her 3 loving children: Robert Donald Miller, Jr., Peggy Ann (Richard "Bud") Morgan and Keith Allan (Sheryl) Miller. She is survived by the child she took under her wings David (Karen) Drake. Grandmother to Robert Donald Miller III, Tonya Marie Malekas, Richard Edward Morgan II, David Wayne Morgan, Paul Daniel Miller, and Michael Thomas Miller. Great-grandmother to Corbin Miller, Connor Darbyshire, Riley Morgan, Chance Darbyshire, and Jesse Morgan. Sisters Dora Reinink and Faith Martinez. Former daughter-in-law Elizabeth Miller-O'Brien. Many nieces and nephews also survive. She was preceded in death by her parents, her sister Virginia Lahr, and her faithful dog Harley.

Visitation was held on Friday, December 18, 2015 from 2-8 P.M. at the Higginson & Neal Funeral Home, 209 Main St., Belleville (734-697-9400). Funeral services were held Saturday, December 19, 2015 at 11:00 A.M. at the funeral home with Mrs. Sonia Ardell (niece) officiating. Burial followed at Cadillac Memorial Gardens, West.

We will always carry Ellie in our hearts and we will never forget how she touched our lives. The love she showed us will never be replaced and we will miss her always.

The family suggested memorial contributions to the Sumpter Township Senior Center, 23501 Sumpter Rd., Belleville, MI 48111.



Georgia Fay Thompson

## GEORGIA FAY THOMPSON

(August 16, 1932 – December 16, 2015)

Georgia Fay Thompson, age 83, of Van Buren Township, MI, formerly of Treasure Island Florida, passed away Wednesday, December 16, 2015. She was born August 16, 1932 in Arkansas, daughter of Roscoe & Ruby Marion (Woods) Beck.

Georgia was a member of the Elks. She enjoyed exercising, walking and rose gardening. She also enjoyed dancing, sewing and creweling. Mrs. Thompson is survived by four children Terry Morris of Ann Arbor, MI, Penny (Mark) Young of Belleville, MI, Marshella (Terry) Hadley of Belleville, MI and Dale (Janis) Morris in Mansfield, Texas; 9 grandchildren; 13 great-grandchildren with one on-the-way; a brother Marshall Beck of Paw Paw, Illinois; a sister Letha Smith of Pasadena, Florida; also numerous nieces and nephews. She was preceded in death by her parents, and her husband Milton Thompson in 2000, 9 siblings, also a great-grandson.

A memorial service will be held at David C. Brown Funeral Home, Belleville, on Tuesday, December 29, 2015 at 5:00 PM with visitation beginning at 3:30 PM. Interment of cremains will be in South Lyon Cemetery, South Lyon, MI. In lieu of flowers, memorial donations may be made to Alzheimer's Association, Barbara Ann Karmanos Cancer Institute and the Spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) and would be greatly appreciated. Please sign her on-line guest book and share a story for her family to cherish at [www.davidcbrownfh.com](http://www.davidcbrownfh.com).



Angela "Angie" Margaret Wood

## ANGELA 'ANGIE' MARGARET WOOD

(December 31, 1952 – December 16, 2015)

Mrs. Angela "Angie" Margaret Wood passed away December 16, 2015 at University Hospitals, Ann Arbor. She was born December 31, 1952 in Washington, D.C. a daughter of Albert Eugene and Catherine (Chaloup) Carter. On September 28, 1996 she was married to Larry Wood in Annapolis, MD moving to Belleville from Brownstown Twp. in 1993.

Angie loved to garden. She enjoyed travel, shopping and cooking. She also enjoyed doing crafts along with cross-stitch. Angie had been employed by Dwellworks, Inc. of Farmington Hills for 6 years.

Angie is survived by her loving husband of 19 years Larry Wood. Fond sister of Thomas Carter and Mary Johnson. Many nieces, nephews and in-laws also survive. Angie was preceded in death by her parents and 2 brothers George Carter and Matthew Carter.

Visitation was held on Sunday, December 20, 2015 from 2-4 P.M. at the Higginson & Neal Funeral Home, 209 Main St. (734-697-9400). Funeral services were on Monday, December 21, 2015 at 11:00 A.M. at the funeral home. Cremation followed the services.

# Man dies in Sumpter Township fire

By Rosemary K. Oztman  
Independent Editor

A man's body was found by fire fighters in a house that had burned Saturday around noontime at 48744 Wear Road in Sumpter Township.

Sumpter Police Captain Eric Luke said the initial investigation points to the 54-year-old male victim, a resident of the 48000 block of Wear Road, committed suicide by self-immolation while inside the residence. The fire then set the residence ablaze.

The Sumpter Township Police Department was assisted with the on-scene investigation by the Michigan State Fire Marshal and are awaiting that finalized report. Notification was made to the next-of-kin, Captain Luke said, although due to the ongoing investigation police will not be releasing the victim's name at this time.

Fire Chief Joseph Januszyk, who was out of town at the time of the fire, said a Sumpter Township Police officer was at the autopsy done by the Wayne County Medical Examiner.

Chief Januszyk said, according to his department's written report, dispatch toned out Sumpter fire fighters at 12:16 p.m., telling them of the possibility of someone being in the house.

Sumpter called Augusta Township for mutual aid and Chief Januszyk said fire was in "Condition Able" at 1:31 p.m., about an hour and 15 minutes later.

The damaged front of the house was boarded up after the fire.



Independent photo by James Oztman

This house at 48744 Wear Road in Sumpter Township caught on fire Saturday when the man inside set himself on fire to commit suicide, according to preliminary reports.

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## More Letters

### Public Safety giving back for the holidays

To the Editor:

The Holidays Season is upon us and also is the spirit of giving. Our Public Safety personnel expressed that no better than their actions this past weekend. Every year the men and women of our police and fire

associations by their generosity sponsor needy families during the Christmas Holiday Season.

On Saturday, Dec. 19 at 12 pm members representing Van Buren Police, Fire and Dispatch adopted and shopped with four less fortunate families in an effort to make their season brighter this year.

Deputy Director Wright and I attended this event to offer support for the generous efforts of our men and women in public safety. It was amazing to see the looks and words of appreciation from families in attendance.

This is just another example of our Public Safety creating partnerships with the public we serve.

Gregory M. Laurain  
Director of Public Safety  
Van Buren Township

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We Look Forward  
to seeing you at  
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*Merry Christmas &  
Happy New Year!*

### Eagles raise \$14,400 to fight pediatric cancer

To the Editor:

Over 220 people attended our annual "Amore for the Kids" live auction dinner dance held Nov 7 at the Van Buren Eagles Hall.

We would like to thank all the community members who attended our event. We also would like to thank the countless number of other people from California to Florida who made a contribution to our auction.

Together we raised over \$14,400 for pediatric cancer research at CS Mott's Children's Hospital in Ann Arbor.

We sent this money to our grand Aerie and they will sometimes add a grant to it. Last year they added funds enabling us to give \$20,000 to CS Mott's Children's Hospital. The Van Buren Eagles have raised over \$270,000 for cancer research and to provide free bone marrow testing.

Together we can make a difference. Anyone still wishing to donate please send to: Van Buren Eagles, 9961 Beck Rd., Belleville, MI 48111, ATT: Amore for the Kids.

Amore, Linda Combs  
Van Buren Township

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# Police officer injured in fights at Belleville High School basketball game

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
Independent Editor

Police Cpl. Todd Schrecengost was head-butted by a 17-year-old student from Ypsilanti Lincoln schools outside of a basketball game on Dec. 15 at Belleville High School.

Belleville Police Chief Hal Berriman said Cpl. Schrecengost sought medical attention at a hospital for the cut on his forehead.

Chief Berriman said there were two separate incidents at BHS. Cpl. Schrecengost and Cpl. Kris Faull were at the school and two young men started fighting right in front of the officers. The

officers broke it up and were placing the two in the scout car when another fight broke out.

When they went to break that fight up, one fighter jerked his head up and head-butted Schrecengost.

All four were conveyed to the lockup at Van Buren Township Police Department and one was ticketed and released. Another posted bond and was released and two more were awaiting felony charges from the Wayne County Prosecutor's Office because of the assault on a police officer,

Chief Berriman said.

None of those involved were Belleville students, Chief Berriman said. All those involved in the fights were 17-year-old students from Ypsilanti Lincoln, he said.

BHS was playing Dearborn at the time.

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## Welcome, Alan Gerald Hawkins

Dawna Louise Himes and David Scott Hawkins of Belleville announce the birth of their son Alan Gerald Hawkins Dec. 4 at Beaumont Hospital Wayne. Alan weighed 8 pounds, 7 ounces and measured 20 inches long. Alan came home to join his brother Brian David Hawkins. Grandparents are Brian David Hawkins, Kimberly Hawkins, Alan Wayne Himes, and Shannon Gayle Adams. The newborn was named after his mother's father Alan Himes and his father's grandfather Gerald M. Hawkins, who was laid to rest on the same day the baby was born.

**Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!**

*From The Sumpter Township Board of Trustees*

**John W. Morgan – Supervisor**  
**Clarence J. Hoffman, Jr. – Clerk**  
**Alan D. Bates – Treasurer**  
**Donald C. LaPorte – Trustee**  
**Matthew Oddy – Trustee**  
**Peggy Morgan – Trustee**  
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# Orphan of the Week

**Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue**

## “ROMEO”



All **Romeo** asked Santa for this year was a fur-ever home and we hope he gets his wish. **Romeo** is a 2 1/2 year old Doberman Pinscher mix that quickly showed us he was a lover by greeting his neighbor pup through the kennels with a kiss rather than bark. His playful, affectionate and energetic personality is irresistibly fun and it's easy to find yourself head over heels in love before you know it. **Romeo** loves being with people and can't wait to take a walk, run or play his favorite game of energetic fetch with you. His happy attack pounce on tennis balls will have you grinning ear to ear. He's also very fond of belly rubs once he's tired out from all the fun. **Romeo's** doggie manners are pretty good but he can get over-excited and forget his manners needing firm and consistent corrections to get back on track. Some training once in his fur-ever home is recommended to help start things off on the right paw. He's also great with cats and loves hanging in the cat haven whenever he can. If his lovable, fun personality doesn't win you over his looks will do the trick. His brown and white coat is short and easy to care for and his chocolate brown eyes and small ears with tufts of wispy hair are downright adorable. He's neutered, vaccinated and micro-chipped and ready to come home for **Christmas**. Call **Friends of Michigan Animals Rescue** at **734-461-9458** or visit our website **fmar1.org** for more information.

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**TUESDAY -- BURGERS OR MEAT LOAF**

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## Build your own Holiday Basket at **Tim Hortons** in Belleville restaurants only!

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**Merry Christmas, Happy Hanukkah, Happy Kwanzaa, Happy New Year and Happy Holidays from your Belleville area Tim Hortons!**



Pausing for a group picture at Monday's Belleville City Council meeting are, from left, Belleville Police Chief Hal Berriman, Van Buren Township Public Safety Director Greg Laurain, VBT Deputy Director Public Safety-Fire, and Belleville Fire Chief Brian Loranger.

## VBT Public Safety Director Laurain thanks Belleville Police, Fire

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
*Independent Editor*

Van Buren Township Public Safety Director Greg Laurain made a special appearance at the Belleville City Council meeting on Monday to thank the city's police and fire personnel who assisted the township in fighting the Dec. 13 house fire on Denton Road.

Director Laurain presented a letter of recognition to the city and said he hoped it would make its way into the appropriate personnel files.

Laurain said the township had automatic mutual aid with another department, but at the time of the fire that department was fighting its own fire.

He said the Belleville Fire Department came for mutual aid and four Belleville police officers were first to approach the fire. Laurain said they could see the child several feet inside the front door but couldn't go in because of the fire.

But when a VBT fire fighter arrived in full gear they pointed out the child and fire fighter John Henderson pulled her out.

"They couldn't go in, but they brought timely resources," Laurain said of the police officers.

He said two of the officers were going off duty when the 4 a.m. fire was reported.

"They didn't have to come out. They could have gone home," he said, reporting their timely appearance on the scene saved seconds in getting to the child.

Belleville Police Chief Hal Berriman said his police officers – Officer Mark Aldrich and his partner Reserve Officer Matt Raich and Officer Kendra Rose and her partner Reserve Officer Dennis Mobray – already have been given life-saving ribbons by his department.

Council members asked that the officers be honored before the council at its next meeting and Chief Berriman agreed to present them.

Then Fire Chief Brian Loranger said his department sent an engine with five people on it and, "They worked those people pretty hard."

*(Continued on page 12)*



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# City Council

(continued from page 11)

When asked how many fire fighters he would like to present at the next meeting to be honored, Chief Loranger said, "All of them."

It was pointed out that a Belleville Fire Fighter found the body of the teenager who had been missing all morning.

Chief Berriman said the police departments in the tri-community are always reaching out to help each other.

Laurain said VBT police has always thought of themselves as partner with the city police.

Mayor Kerreen Conley said, "All of our communities work together, not only in time of need. We have cooperation across our borders."

In other business on Monday, the council:

- Awarded plaques to the winners in the Holiday House Decorating Contest: Christopher and Tracee Kloian, 253 Harbour Pointe Dr.; Ronald and Donna Adkins, 461 Waterbury Dr.; The Morin Family, 77 Carmell; John and Lisa Wysocki, 185 E. Huron River Dr.; and Photography by Shannon, 309 Main St.;

- Unanimously re-elected Jack Loria to serve as mayor pro tem for another year;

- Set a public hearing for 7:30 p.m., Tuesday, Feb. 16, to hear comments on the Downtown Development Authority's proposed Development Plan and Tax Increment Financing Plan;

- Briefly discussed the numbers presented that would replace the crumbling concrete streets in Harbour Pointe subdivision with asphalt. The cost increases 10% for concrete, said DPW Director Keith Tackett. "I don't think most of the neighbors would be happy if you replaced concrete with blacktop," Tackett said. City Manager Diana Kollmeyer said for the Jan. 19 council meeting she will bring back financial options for redoing all the streets in the city that need it and then they will set a public meeting in a larger room to discuss the \$10 million project;

- Unanimously approved the mayor's appointment and reappointments to boards and commissions: new appointment of Jim Fitch to Planning Commission, term to expire Dec. 31, 2018; reappointments of Bill Emerson, Tom Smith (city council representative) and Michael Hawkins to the Zoning Board of Appeals with terms to expire Dec. 31, 2018; reappointments of Mike Renaud and Michael Hawkins to the Planning Commission, with terms to expire Dec. 31, 2018; reappointment of Jim Higgerson to the DDA with term to expire Dec. 31, 2019; and reappointment of Deborah Acho to the Parks and Recreation Commission with a term to expire Dec. 31, 2019;

- Approved the meeting dates for city council for 2016, at least twice each month, mostly on Mondays, but four on Tuesdays this year when Mondays are holidays;

- Approved advertising for quotes for two police department copy machines, one upstairs and one in the chief's office to

replace the old copiers that can no longer be serviced. They will be purchased with drug forfeiture funds;

- Approved accounts payable of \$208,514.21 and departmental purchases in excess of \$500: to Cadillac Asphalt, \$625.60 for road repair/backfill from various departments; to Elden Cylinder Testing, \$980 for hydrostatic testing/fill station from Fire Department budget; to First United Methodist Church, \$1,099.25 for bond reimbursement from trust budget; to Lonnie's Auto Repair, \$788.91 for vehicle repair from various departments; to Priority One Emergency, \$999.95 from a donation from the Bayou for five bullet proof vests; to Wayne County Accounts Receivable, \$560 for lodging in the Dickerson Facility, General Fund; and to Wise Technologies, \$1,511.17 for new computer equipment and labor from the Capital Outlay budget;

- Was informed City Manager Kollmeyer would be on vacation and would not be present for the next meeting. She said the audit is complete and is being filed with the state by the end of the year. The council will be getting a report, she said;

- Heard Councilman Tom Fielder complain about what he called a "letter" in the Independent about the fire union negotiations that have taken more than two years so far. He said one thing he resented was that it said the negotiations were slowed and hamstrung because the city manager was out of town for months on end. "She chooses to take her vacation in winter," Fielder said, noting that is her choice. He said Kollmeyer's name was in the paper and the "letter" should have had the whole city council's names in because they all are responsible. [Editor's Note: Kollmeyer and attorney John Clark are the negotiating team for the city and if one is not available for a session, the session is cancelled. Fire fighters have five on their team and need only two to negotiate.] "We're not done yet. It's our fault and the union's fault," Fielder said;

- Learned there are two vacancies on the

DDA and several other vacancies on other commissions. Residents interested may inquire at city hall;

- Heard Jeff Vernon of the Sugar Plum Candy Shoppe announce as of the first of the year he will be living in Belleville and he already is working with four to five people on a project to improve the community for the kids. He said he has a few ideas and he'll talk to the council about them. He said he learned once the city had a skate park for kids. He said he'd like to help get more businesses downtown besides the present

12-13 insurance companies; and

- Went into executive session to discuss pending union negotiations with the announcement that the council would reconvene in open session after the closed-door session only to adjourn.



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From Our Family To Yours!*



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Us At The  
Belleville  
Independent!*



From left: Rosemary Otzman, Janet Millard, James Otzman, Bob Mytych



# More Letters

## Let me tell you about a very special person

To the Editor:

In this season of giving the best gift I can think of to give to a wonderful person I know is to say THANK YOU publicly. I'd like everyone to know what this woman does for the community of Belleville.

She gets up four or five mornings a week by 4:30 a.m., feeds her three dogs and her cats, then she is off to volunteer at the animal shelter FMAR where she does

multiple chores around the "cat house," all the while passing out love among all the cats who need homes.

When she leaves the shelter she often goes to the recycling center in Sumpter and drops off the recycling from the animal shelter, recycling from her home in Belleville and often recycling she has stopped and picked up along the road. She recycled before recycling was cool!

If she knows of someone in need, she always manages to collect items for that person. Being in her large group of friends she makes sure we know things needed for the folks she runs across who are less fortunate. Anything we have, old towels, extra food, pillows etc. Things we are

going to discard she always, always finds a use for. She doesn't waste a thing and won't let you waste anything, either.

Her car is usually FULL of cans either she's collected or we've saved to give her so she can take them to the animal shelter FMAR to be recycled and get the cash to help the animals. OR, her car might be full of Styrofoam she's taking to the recycling center.

During her busy day she finds time to go to Trinity Episcopal Church on Belleville Road and take care of the flower gardens. She is a member of our Trinity family but there are FEW people who give so much of themselves as she does. Whether it's 90 or 32 degrees outside she can be seen pulling weeds or doing some trimming.

There is so much more this woman does but there isn't enough paper to list it on.

Her name is Pat Marshall and I'm so proud to call her my friend. This is the time of year we all take the time to appreciate what we have even though we should appreciate each other all year. Pat Marshall deserves a big thank you from the community of Belleville and I'd like to thank her for being my friend.

Paula Brown

## Welcome to the Socialist States of America

To the Editor:

Before I tell this sad story, I want to congratulate the President on keeping his promise to fundamentally change America. A special thanks to Harry Reid for using my tax dollars to bribe the last few reluctant senators to vote for Obamacare.

I would be remiss if I didn't mention John Dingell who reached a lifetime goal of socialized medicine for all Americans.

Now, for my sad story.

My wife fell and hurt her shoulder on Saturday, Dec. 5. She was taken to the emergency room where after many x-rays she was told we don't think it's broken but you should see an orthopedic doctor and have a MRI.

We saw the doctor on Dec. 8. He requested the MRI. After many days and no response, I called Blue Cross Advantage (our premium went up \$50 a month next year) and spoke to a very nice young man and asked what the hold-up was on the MRI approval. He said Blue Cross doesn't handle those things any more, but some outside contractor does and he would call them for me. He said they had not made that decision yet. On Dec. 16 the doctor called and said they would not approve the MRI but try therapy first.

One of my daughters was angry and said, "I hope the doctor will be responsible if something is wrong that the MRI would have shown."

I said it's not the doctor's fault. It's not even the insurance company's fault. Some nameless, faceless person that has never seen your mother made this decision. Welcome to the Socialist States of America.

Remember, socialism is communism with a dash of religion to make it smell better.

Mickey Widener

Van Buren Township



Van Buren Township Supervisor Linda Combs' appointment of John Delaney to the Local Development Finance Authority was approved by the VBT Board of Trustees at its Dec. 15 meeting. His term will expire Aug. 12, 2017.

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WANTED - SMALL CONTAINERS of shampoo, toothpaste, etc. to take to homeless in Detroit. Drop off at Bladez's, 601 E. Huron River Dr. (734) 697-5600 TFN

QUEEN-SIZED BED FRAME. Reasonable price. Please call (734) 796-3036. 1/7

## FOUND

GLASSES LEFT behind after the Christmas Parade. (734) 699-9020. 12/24

## FOR RENT

FARMHOUSE, 4 bedrooms, 2 baths. Belleville Area. \$1,200/mo, \$1,300 security deposit. (734) 461-1362, 12/24

## MANUFACTURED HOMES FOR SALE

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Security deposit waived when you purchase a Franklin Home! Call one of our associates before December 31!\*

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\*WAC. Restrictions apply. No cash value. See a Franklin Homes associate for details.

THREE NEWLY REMODELED doublewides, 3 bedrooms, 2 baths. Priced to sell. Swan Creek in New Boston. Call Nancy (734) 753-5333 or (734) 790-5750. 12/24

**The Belleville-Area Independent New Website is Now Online! Visit us @ [bellevilleareaindependent.com](http://bellevilleareaindependent.com) Read The Newspaper On The Web!**

### PUBLISHER'S NOTICE:

All real estate advertising in this newspaper is subject to the Fair Housing Act which makes it illegal to advertise "any preference, limitation or discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, handicap, familial status or national origin, or an intention, to make any such preference, limitation or discrimination." Familial status includes children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women and people securing custody of children under 18.

This newspaper will not knowingly accept any advertising for real estate which is in violation of the law. Our readers are hereby informed that all dwellings advertised in this newspaper are available on an equal opportunity basis. To complain of discrimination call HUD toll-free at 1-800-669-9777. The toll-free telephone number for the hearing impaired is 1-800-927-9275.



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- George Orwell

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"The only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is that men of good will do nothing."  
- Cicero, B.C.

# Environmental

(continued from page 3)

the water.

He said, "Belleville is an island of evil and darkness in the middle of righteousness."

Best said that may not be the opinion of the entire board or the entire township.

Commission Chairman David Brownlee said it's important to get the word out to the average citizens.

Dr. Wilson said VBT will be getting new brochures from the Huron River Watershed Council in the next few weeks that tells the percent limit of PAHs that is safe and the other names for products that have coal tar in them.

"Eventually, coal tar sealant won't be used anywhere in the country – and that starts with municipalities like us," Brownlee said.

Dr. Wilson said State Rep. Kristy Pagan is putting together legislation.

Trustee Jeff Jahr, who sits on the Environmental Commission, said a letter to Rep. Pagan should go through the supervisor.

"You and the supervisor can sign a letter

together and that will carry more weight for someone like Pagan and Senator Hopgood," Best said.

### Recycling Road Map

Brownlee is leading the commission's effort to make a local booklet that lists local places to recycle items and fluids. They were using the Wayne County recycling handbook as a template, "but not all of it is timely or necessarily appropriate," Brownlee said.

"We want to do it with everything that is appropriate," Brownlee said, adding that as they get into the new year they can work more on the project. He said this is a long-term project.

"We want to make it easier to recycle and close to home," he said.

Trustee Jahr said the county booklet says to contact the local police department to get rid of antifreeze and they have to make sure the VBT police department accepts it.

In other business at the 54-minute meeting, the commission:

- Accepted the dates of the commission meetings in 2016, all at 7 p.m. on the third Wednesdays of each month;
- Briefly discussed the proposed Shoreline Ordinance. Best said the next step is for

three public meetings with property owners in January and February to answer their private questions one-on-one about their own properties – their shorelines, their docks, their boathouses. Then there will be a regular public hearing in March and ordinance approval in time for the April boating season start; and

- Heard from Best that the Parks and Recreation Department has asked the Building and Planning Department, along with Water and Sewer, to join it in taking part in plans for a Iron Belle Trail that runs all the way from the western edge of the Upper Peninsula to Grosse Ile. It's Gov. Snyder's project and funding will be available. There is a hiking route and a biking route that make up the trail. In VBT the hiking route is proposed to run from French Landing Dam west on Huron River Drive through Belleville. It is undecided if it will go through the park, he said. "Parks and Recreation is looking at all its options," Best said. "It really is conceptual now." He said the Environmental commission is a natural to take part in this project.

**See page 16 for coal tar ordinance.**

## Rep. Pagan introduces bill to ban coal tar driveway sealants

State Representative Kristy Pagan, D-Canton, on Thursday introduced House Bill 5174, which would prohibit the use and sale of coal-tar based products in Michigan.

Coal tar sealants, which are commonly used to seal driveways, parking lots, and playgrounds, release a class of chemicals called polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons (PAHs), some of which are highly toxic and known to cause birth defects and cancer.

The bill comes just two days after the Van Buren Township Board of Trustees passed a local ban on the use of coal tar and other high-PAH sealants.

"Coal tar driveway sealcoats present a real health and safety risk for Michigan residents, and are damaging to our air and waterways," Rep. Pagan said. "I am proud to represent Van Buren Township, which just passed Michigan's first municipal ban on coal tar sealant, and am excited to lead the charge for a statewide ban on the sale and application of this toxic and all-too-common product."

According to the Huron River Watershed Council, a person who lives near coal tar seal-coated pavement has a cancer risk 38 times higher, on average, than someone who does not live in close proximity to coal tar seal-coated pavement.

During application of coal tar sealcoat, PAHs volatilize into the air and affect air quality. As the sealcoat weathers, dust from pavement is tracked into homes via shoes and clothing, and rain loosens PAH particles, which spread into soil, storm drains, lakes and rivers.

The Great Lakes region is particularly affected: 50% to 75% of all PAHs found in sediments within the Great Lakes region have been shown to come from coal tar sealcoat.

"When we learned about the many impacts associated with coal tar sealcoat, we felt compelled to do something about it, both for the river and for residents of our watershed," said Rebecca Esselman, watershed planner with the Huron River Watershed Council. "We hope that by increasing awareness and advocating for local ordinances banning the products, we can grow the support necessary to see coal tar and other high PAH sealants banned throughout the state."

"A ban on these products reduces the risk of cancer from exposure to polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons, eliminates a source of toxic contamination in our streams, and eliminates a source of contaminated sediment that must be disposed of as hazardous waste," said David J. Wilson, member of the Van Buren Township environmental commission and former professor of chemistry and environmental engineering at Vanderbilt University.

"I am absolutely delighted to see Rep. Pagan proposing such a ban at the state level."

## BHS Distinguished Graduate Nomination Form

### BELLEVILLE HIGH SCHOOL DISTINGUISHED GRADUATE NOMINATION FORM

The Distinguished Graduate Award is an annual honor that recognizes Belleville High School graduates who have distinguished themselves in business or profession, or have contributed to his/her community's welfare and progress. The graduation year of those recognized must be ten (10) or more years prior to the current year of graduation. It is expected that the recipient, or family member in the case of the posthumous award, attend the National Honor Society induction ceremony, where the award will be presented.

**I would like to nominate \_\_\_\_\_ as a recipient of the Belleville High School Distinguished Graduate Award.**

Check here if candidate is deceased \_\_\_\_\_ (Please complete "Special Posthumous Category" below).

#### Candidate's Information:

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Special Posthumous Category, one award per year:

Year of Birth: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Death: \_\_\_\_\_ Year of Graduation: \_\_\_\_\_

Contact: \_\_\_\_\_ Relationship to nominee: \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Describe why you think this candidate should be considered for this award.** You may want to include the nominee's BHS activities, academic/vocational training, professional, military, or public service success, and/or volunteer achievements. It is recommended you enlist the assistance of the nominee (or family member) in completing this application. It will be difficult, but please limit your nomination to one typed sheet of paper.

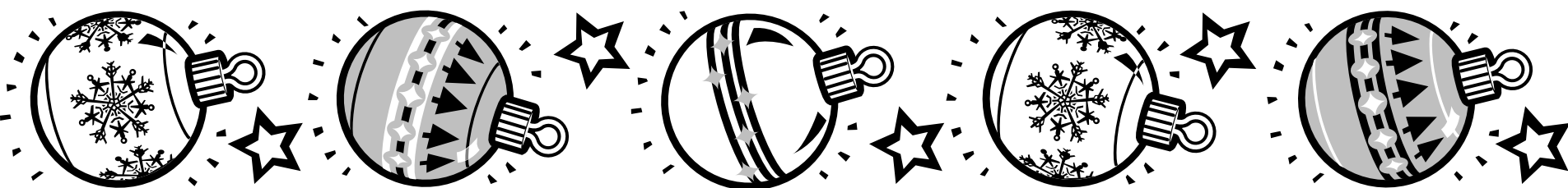
Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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Telephone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Please return to:  
Distinguished Graduate Award, Belleville High School, 501 West Columbia Avenue, Belleville, MI 48111  
no later than January 31.





## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN COUNTY OF WAYNE STATE OF MICHIGAN ORDINANCE # 12-1-15

#### AN ORDINANCE TO PROTECT THE PUBLIC HEALTH, SAFETY AND WELFARE AND PRESERVATION OF NATURAL RESOURCES AND WILDLIFE WITHIN THE TOWNSHIP BY PROHIBITING THE USE OF COAL TAR PRODUCTS

At a regular meeting of the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren, Wayne County, Michigan, held in the Van Buren Township Hall within the Township, on the 15 day of December 2015 at 7:00 p.m.

PRESENT: Members: Budd, Wright, Hart, Jahr, Miller and McClanahan  
ABSENT: Member: Combs

It was moved by Member Jahr and supported by Member Miller that the following Ordinance be adopted to add a new Article V to Chapter 42 Environment to read as follows:

THE CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN ("To wnship"),  
COUNTY OF WAYNE, MICHIGAN ORDAINS:

#### Section 42-151 PURPOSE.

The Charter Township of Van Buren understands that lakes, rivers, streams and other bodies of water are natural assets which enhance the environmental, recreational, cultural and economic resources and contribute to the general health and welfare of the community. The use of sealers on asphalt driveways is a common practice. However, scientific studies on the use of driveway sealers have suggested a relationship between Stormwater runoff and certain health and environmental concerns. The purpose of this ordinance is to prohibit the use and sale of sealant products containing >1% Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons (PAHs) by weight, including coal tar sealer in the Township, in order to protect, restore and preserve the quality of its waters, preservation of wildlife and protect the health of its residents.

#### Section 42-152. DEFINITIONS.

Except as may otherwise be provided or clearly implied by context, all terms shall be given their commonly accepted definitions. For the purpose of this Ordinance, the following definitions shall apply unless the context clearly indicates or requires a different meaning:

**ASPHALT BASED SEALER.** A petroleum based sealer material that is commonly used on driveways, parking lots, and other surfaces and may contain PAHs but at a much lower concentration than found in coal tar based sealers.

**COAL TAR.** A byproduct of the process used to refine coal.

**COAL TAR SEALANT PRODUCT.** A surface applied sealing product for application on asphalt, concrete or other pavement including a driveway or parking area containing coal tar, coal tar pitch, coal tar pitch volatiles, or any variation assigned the Chemical Abstracts Service (CAS) numbers 65996-93-2, 65996-89-6, or 8007-45-2.

**HIGH PAH CONTENT SEALANT PRODUCT.** Any pavement sealant product that contains greater than 1% PAHs by weight.

**PAHs.** Polycyclic Aromatic Hydrocarbons. A group of organic chemicals formed during the incomplete burning of coal, oil, gas, or other organic substances. Present in coal tar and believed harmful to humans, fish, and other aquatic life.

**PERSON.** An individual, corporation, partnership, sole proprietorship, LLC or other entity.

**TOWNSHIP.** The Charter Township of Van Buren.

#### Section 42-153 PROHIBITIONS ON USE OF COAL TAR PRODUCTS

A. No person shall use or apply a coal tar, coal tar sealant product or other high PAH content sealant product on asphalt paved surfaces with the Township.

B. No person shall sell or offer to sell a coal tar, coal tar sealant product or other high PAH content sealant product that is formulated or marketed for application on asphalt-paved surfaces within the Township.

C. No person shall allow a coal tar, coal tar sealant product or other high PAH content sealant product to be used or applied upon property that is under that person's ownership or control.

D. No person shall contract with any commercial sealer product applicator, residential or commercial developer, or any other person for the application of any coal tar, coal tar sealant product or other high PAH content sealant product to any driveway, parking lot, or other surface within the Township.

E. No commercial sealer product applicator, residential or commercial developer, or other similar individual or organization shall direct any employee, independent contractor, volunteer, or other person to apply any coal tar, coal tar sealant product or other high PAH content sealant product to any driveway, parking lot, or other surface with the Township.

#### Section 42-42-154 ASPHALT BASED SEALCOAT PRODUCTS.

The provisions of this ordinance shall only apply to coal tar, coal tar sealant products or other high PAH content sealant products in the Township and shall not affect the use of asphalt based sealer products within the Township.

#### Section 42-155 Penalties and Enforcement.

a. **Penalty.** Violation of this Ordinance is a municipal civil infraction, for which the fines shall be not less than One Hundred Dollars (\$100) or more than Five Hundred Dollars (\$500) for the first offense, in the discretion of the Court, and in addition to all of the costs, damages and expenses provided by law.

b. **Injunction.** Any violation of this Ordinance is hereby declared to be a nuisance per se. In addition to, or in lieu of, seeking to enforce this Ordinance by proceeding under Section 42-155(a) above, the Township may institute an action in a court of general jurisdiction seeking injunctive or equitable relief and shall be entitled to recover all attorney fees, court costs, litigation expenses, costs and expenses to abate the nuisance, and all other costs allowed by law.

c. **Enforcement and Administration.** This Ordinance shall be enforced and administered by the Township Director of Planning and Economic Development or such other Township official as may be designated from time to time by resolution by the Township Board.

#### Section 42-156 Severability.

In the event that any one or more sections, provisions, phrases or words of this Ordinance shall be found to be invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, such holding shall not affect the validity or the enforceability of the remaining sections, provisions, phrases or words of this Ordinance.

#### Section 42-157 Conflicts.

If any provision of this Ordinance conflicts with any provision of any other Township general ordinance or zoning ordinance, the most restrictive provision shall apply.

#### Section 42-158 Effective Date.

The provisions of this Ordinance shall take effect upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation within the Township.

AYES: Members: Budd, Wright, Hart, Jahr, Miller and McClanahan

NAYS: Members: None

ABSTAIN/ABSENT: Members: Combs

ORDINANCE DECLARED ADOPTED.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sharry Budd,  
Treasurer, Charter Township of Van Buren

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leon Wright,  
Clerk, Charter Township of Van Buren

Adopted: 12-15-15  
Published: 12-10-15, 12-24-15  
Effective: 12-24-15

#### CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify the foregoing to be a true copy of an Ordinance adopted by the Township Board of the Charter Township of Van Buren at a regular meeting held on December 15, 2015, pursuant to the required statutory procedures.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Leon Wright, Township Clerk

## Minding Your Business with Bob Mytych



Garden Fantasy Greenhouse is closing its doors on Haggerty Road after 47 years of doing business. Owners Walt and Joyce Rochowiak's last day is today, Christmas Eve.

No worries, as they'll be back in the spring as the greenhouse operations and retail garden center moves to 43250 Tyler Road near Morton Taylor, their home.

The Haggerty Road property was at

one time a produce stand, then a grocery store where a garden center was born and a wholesale business began and served merchants like Montgomery Ward and Kmart, according to Walt.

At one time there were 16 greenhouses on the property, among planted fields on both sides of Haggerty Road. Soon after a Pic n Pac grocery store opened down the street in the now Haggerty Plaza. That's when Garden Fantasy stopped selling groceries and concentrated on plants and soon after, Joyce and daughter Colette operated the florist part of the business while becoming a certified florist and designer in the process. Colette now owns Garden Fantasy on Main florist shop in downtown Belleville

All the best to you, Walt and Joyce. See you in the spring at your new location.

\*\*\*

The Yankee Air Museum Historic Presentation Night is 7 p.m. Wednesday, Jan. 6, at the museum at Willow Run Airport. The free event will feature Bruce Havilland and a program titled "Airline Era Memories," including never-before-seen color images of Willow Run Airport during commercial aviation's golden era.

The photos from the '50s and '60s were taken by Bruce's father Max Havilland, a General Motors engineer. Seats are limited. Call (734) 483-4030 and visit [www.yankeeairmuseum.org](http://www.yankeeairmuseum.org).

\*\*\*

Action Mechanical Heating and Cooling of Belleville are the experts in sales and service of humidifiers, water heaters, commercial refrigeration, HVAC service and boiler repairs. They serve the tri-community as well as Canton and Western Wayne County. Call owner Daniel Stapish at (734) 697-4650.

\*\*\*

Belleville Basketball at Bethany still has openings for its children's basketball league coming up Jan. 9-March 5, 2016 at the Bethany Bible Church in Belleville. The league is for children K-6th grade.

The cost is \$30 if signed up by Jan. 8; \$40 after. To register and for times and other information, visit [www.bethanybiblechurch.com](http://www.bethanybiblechurch.com) or call (734) 697-7456.

\*\*\*

*Do you have a business item you would like to see in this column? Call Bob Mytych at (734) 699-9020 with your suggestion. There is not cost to be in this column.*

"If a black cat crosses your path,  
it signifies that the animal is going  
somewhere."

— Groucho Marx

**KAREN'S  
PLACE**

A Salon  
For Everyone

**36968 Huron River Drive  
New Boston, Michigan**  
Appointments & Walk-ins Welcome  
**734-753-9130**  
OPEN: Tues.- Fri. 9-5, Sat. 9-3



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**Cell: (734) 730-9733**

## Charter Township of Van Buren Public Notice

### CHARTER TOWNSHIP OF VAN BUREN BOARD MEETING MINUTES DECEMBER 15, 2015

Treasurer Budd called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. in the Board Room. Present: Treasurer Budd, Clerk Wright, Trustee Hart, Trustee Jahr, Trustee McClanahan and Trustee Miller. Absent/Excused: Supervisor Combs. Others in attendance: Secretary Montgomery, Planning and Economic Development Director Akers, Planning and Economic Development Deputy Director Best, Public Safety Deputy Director (Fire) Besson and an audience of twenty-nine (29).

**APPROVAL OF AGENDA** Hart moved, Miller seconded to approve the agenda with the following amendments: Removal of new business items #2 and new business item #3. Motion Carried.

**APPROVAL OF CONSENT AGENDA:** Wright moved, McClanahan seconded to approve the Consent Agenda. [Work Study Session Minutes of November 30, 2015; Closed Session Minutes of November 30, 2015; Board Meeting Minutes of December 1, 2015; Prepaid List of December 4, 2015; Prepaid List of December 10, 2015; Voucher List of December 15, 2015 and Extension of collection for the 2015 Winter property Taxes without penalty through Monday February 29, 2016]. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC HEARING:** None.

**CORRESPONDENCE:** Deputy Director of Public Safety (Fire) Besson presented the following promotions:

David McNally-Full time Fire Marshal, Ryan McCormick-Captain, Jason Martin-Lieutenant, LaMar Griffin-Firefighter (probation completed) and Chris Pierce-Firefighter (probation completed)

**PUBLIC COMMENT:** None.

**UNFINISHED BUSINESS:**

Jahr moved, Miller seconded to approve the second (final) reading of General Code of Ordinance 12-1-15 prohibiting the use of coal tar products. Roll Call Vote: Yeas: Budd, Wright, Hart, Jahr, Miller and McClanahan. Absent/Excused: Combs. Motion Carried. The Ordinance will become effective upon publication. Board members thanked Dr. Wilson (Environmental Commission) and Rebecca Esselman (Huron River Watershed Council) for bringing the issue to the Board and development of the ordinance.

**NEW BUSINESS:**

Jahr moved, Hart seconded to approve the appointment of John Delaney to the Local Development Finance Authority (LDFA) with a term to expire August 12, 2017. Roll Call

Vote. Yeas: Budd, Wright, Hart, Jahr and Miller. Nays: McClanahan. Absent/Excused: Combs. Motion Carried.

**REPORTS:** October 2015 Budgetary Report was received. Copies are available at the Clerk's Office 46425 Tyler Rd., Belleville, MI 48111.

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:** Clerk Wright announced the Township Administrative Offices will be closed December 24, 2015 through January 3, 2016 for the holiday season; the Clerk's office will be distributing "Coats for School Kids" to middle and elementary schools in the Van Buren Public School District before the winter recess and thanked everyone who donated; thanked Nicole Sumpter for her efforts in putting together Employee Appreciation Week and to those who provided donations to fund the event; gave an overview of Senate Bill 13 (elimination of Straight Party voting) and House Bill 4724 (no reason absentee voting) presented as a tie bar and encouraged residents to contact their Legislators to oppose removal of the tie bar. The bills are being presented for a vote this week. The Association of Wayne County Clerks and the Michigan Association of Municipal Clerks are in opposition of Senate Bill 13 and a removal of the tie bar; and gave praise and thanks to the work of the Firefighters, Police Officers, Dual Role Employees and the heroic efforts of Firefighter Henderson who saved the life of a small child when responding to the recent house fire on Denton Road. Treasurer Budd announced the deadline for payment of the winter tax is extended until February 29, 2016. Drop boxes are located in front of the main entrance and in the Public Safety Department at Township Hall and, on behalf of the Board, wished everyone in the community a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year.

**NON AGENDA:** Resident comments included: gave best wishes to Supervisor Combs and her husband; thanked Treasurer Budd and Clerk Wright for filing in during her absence; announced donations for the victims of the Denton Road house fire are being accepted at Mail Center One located at 847 Sumpter Rd. Suite 120. Please make checks payable to Van Buren Police Officers Association and indicate Savion Robinson in the memo section, collections jars will be also be placed throughout the community; and thanked the board for their appointment to the Local Development Finance Authority.

**ADJOURNMENT:** Hart moved, McClanahan seconded to adjourn at 7:34 p.m. Motion Carried.

Leon Wright, Township Clerk  
Sharry Budd, Township Treasurer  
Publish: December 24, 2015

**Court Watching:**

# Bonas cousins bound over to circuit court on marijuana charges

By Rosemary K. Otzman  
*Independent Editor*

Co-defendants Jacob Bonas, 22, and James Illie Bonas, 19, who are cousins, are both being charged with controlled substance-delivery/manufacturing of marijuana in Sumpter Township on Nov. 30.

Sumpter Detective John Toth said Officer Brian Steffani was checking Graham Park late in the evening and he came into contact with the two. He smelled marijuana and detained the individuals. The charges of possession with intent to deliver were approved by the prosecutor’s office.

Jacob Bonas had a background that included an armed robbery charge, Det. Toth said.

On Dec. 16 the cousins were due for their probable cause conferences at 34<sup>th</sup> District Court and instead waived their exams. Judge David Parrott bound them over to circuit court for Dec. 24 arraignments on the information.

Their original probable cause conferences had been set for Dec. 9, but Jacob Bonas wasn’t brought in by the Michigan Department of Corrections which has him incarcerated on a parole violation. At that time, Judge Tina Brooks Green said she thought the co-defendants’ cases should stay together and so she adjourned the conferences for a week. Jacob’s court-appointed attorney Steven Remski agreed.

James Bonas had been waiting at the courthouse for hours for his court appearance on Dec. 9 and his court-appointed attorney Daniel Rust had not arrived when the cases were called, so James’ case was adjourned for a week, as well. It was later learned Rust had called the courthouse to say he would be late getting there and would be there by 11 a.m. Later, he said he arrived at the court at 11:02 a.m.

On Dec. 17, James was in court and Jacob was present by video from the Detroit Re-entry Center of the Department of Corrections.

Both cousins had posted their identical bonds of \$10,000/10%.

## Brian Keith Dannis

Brian Keith Dannis, 54, was before Judge Parrott for his probable cause conference on a charge of operating while intoxicated and driving while license suspended on Sept. 17, 2014 in Van Buren Township.

Attorney Joseph Fletcher said there is a potential resolution pending with the prosecutor, so he wanted the conference adjourned so he could negotiate the plea on behalf of his client.

Judge Parrott adjourned the probable cause conference to Jan. 27 and the preliminary exam to Feb. 3.

Dannis is out on \$5,000 personal recognizance bond and the officer in charge is Det. Mark Buxton.

*(Continued on page 19)*

## Van Buren Township Police Dispatch Log

*Out of the 553 dispatch calls reported by Van Buren Township police this week, the following are selected for this column.*

### Sunday, Dec. 13:

- 0156 – fireworks, Hull Rd./Sumpter Rd.
- 1018 – disorderly conduct, N. I-94 Service Dr. Van Buren
- 1504 – private property accident, N. I-94 Service Dr. / Rawsonville
- 1603 – private property accident, Huron River Dr.
- 1659 – disorderly conduct, Rose Blvd.
- 1854 – private property accident, Taco Bell
- 2046 – hospice, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 2337 – disorderly conduct, Brandi

### Monday, Dec. 14:

- 0134 – disorderly conduct, Michigan Ave.
- 0556 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
- 0938 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Haggerty Rd.
- 1032 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
- 1054 – larceny, Country Walk Blvd.
- 1211 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.
- 1232 – harassment call, Rawsonville
- 1248 – animal complaint, Van Buren Park
- 1354 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / Haggerty
- 1511 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
- 1727 – harassment call, Lakeview Ct., cancelled
- 1756 – personal injury accident, Ecorse Rd. / Denton Rd.
- 1808 – disturbance, Belleville Rd.
- 1908 – retail fraud, Belleville
- 1948 – assault & battery, N. I-94 Service Dr.
- 2028 – intimidation threat, Tyler Rd.
- 2157 – trespassing, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 2219 – mental, Stonebridge Ct.
- 2243 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
- 2330 – disturbance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- 2354 – serve warrant, W. Archwood Dr.

### Tuesday, Dec. 15:

- 0747 – agency assist, Belle Villa
  - 1002 – hold up alarm, Country Walk Blvd.
  - 1614 – juvenile complaint, Van Buren St.
  - 1720 – property damage accident, Belleville Rd. / S. I-94 Service Dr.
  - 1927 – sexual assault, Marina Dr.
  - 2056 – agency assist, W. Columbia
  - 2237 – property damage accident, Belleville/Tyler
- ### Wednesday, Dec. 16:
- 0752 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Haggerty Rd.
  - 0948 – private property accident, Van Born
  - 1047 – hospice, Linda Vista Ct.
  - 1121 – private property accident, S. Woodbury Dr.
  - 1536 – hospice, E. Huron River Dr.
  - 1556 – juvenile complaint, Oak Blvd.
  - 1559 – personal injury accident, Sumpter Rd./Hull
  - 1642 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / Ecorse Rd.
  - 2107 – juvenile complaint, Van Buren St.
  - 2358 – assault & battery, Richard Run

### Thursday, Dec. 16:

- 0025 – noise complaint, Denton Rd.
- 0214 – vehicle repossession, Denton Rd.
- 0722 – family trouble, Cross St.
- 0917 – shots fired, Van Born
- 1148 – unauthorized driving away of auto, Westlake Cir.
- 1155 – private property accident, Belleville Rd.
- 1306 – breaking & entering, N. Bellridge Dr.
- 1346 – mental, Oak Ln.
- 1404 – juvenile complaint, Van Buren St.
- 1405 – fraud, Kirkridge Park Dr.
- 1515 – juvenile complaint, Parkwood Dr.
- 1524 – sexual assault, Van Buren St.
- 1826 – intimidation threat, Rose Blvd.
- 1829 – assault & battery, Main St.
- 1840 – property damage accident, Belleville
- 1955 – harassment call, Robson Rd.
- 1958 – larceny, Belleville Rd.
- 2308 – mental, E. Huron River Dr.

### Friday, Dec. 18:

- 0150 – abandoned auto, Ecorse/Haggerty
- 0834 – personal injury accident, E. Huron River Dr. / Haggerty Rd.

- 0920 – assault & battery, Republic Dr.
- 1045 – mental, E. Huron River Dr.
- 1254 – personal injury accident, WB I-94 / Haggerty Rd.
- 1433 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd. / N. I-94 Service Dr.
- 1613 – intimidation threat, Ecorse Rd.
- 1639 – stalking, Lakeview Ct.
- 1653 – property damage accident, Ecorse Rd. / Visteon Way
- 1801 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd. / Morton Taylor Rd.
- 1800 – assist citizen, Comfort Inn
- 1804 – intimidation threat, Fairbanks St.
- 1814 – personal injury accident, Tyler Rd. / Haggerty Rd..
- 1826 – property damage accident, Tyler Rd.. / Walden Rd.
- 2038 – shots fired, Fairbanks St.
- 2235 – malicious destruction of property, Dartmoor Cir.
- 2325 – property damage accident, Haggerty Rd.
- 2338 – property damage accident, EB I-94 / Rawsonville Rd.

### Saturday, Dec. 19:

- 0017 – disturbance, S. I-94 Service Dr.
  - 0226 – property damage accident, WB I-94 / rest area
  - 0321 – larceny, Ayres Ave.
  - 0412 – felony assault, Rawsonville Rd.
  - 1019 – juvenile complaint, S. Dartmoor Cir.
  - 1132 – agency assist, Carmell
  - 1533 – assault & battery, Village Green Ln.
  - 1655 – larceny, Beacon Trl.
  - 1733 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
  - 1836 – fraud, Pay & Pick
  - 1836 – fraud, Pay & Pick
  - 2131 – fraud, Belleville Rd.
  - 2158 – noise complaint, S. I-94 Service Dr.
- Also on this week’s log are 150 traffic stops, 14 of which were on the I-94 or I-275 freeways.

## Belleville Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Dec. 13:

- 0403 – agency assist, Denton Rd.
- 1034 – intrusion alarm, High St.
- 1152 – domestic assault, N. Aberdeen Ct.
- 1229 – harassment call, N. Aberdeen Ct.
- 1641 – narcotics crime, N. Liberty St.
- 1714 – agency assist, Rose
- 2306 – welfare check, Loza Ln.

### Monday, Dec. 14:

- 0433 – malicious destruction of property, Menlo Park Dr.
- 0801 – E-911 hang up/investigation, Robbe St.
- 0802 – vehicle lock out, Wabash Ave.
- 0959 – lost property, Main St.
- 1241 – suspicious vehicle, Community Finan.
- 1300 – vehicle lock out, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1438 – all other traffic, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1438 – larceny, W. Columbia Ave.
- 1446 – parking complaint, District Library
- 2153 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
- 2339 – welfare check, W. Columbia Ave.

### Tuesday, Dec. 15:

- 0001 – follow up, W. Columbia Ave.
- 0028 – warrant arrest, Main St.
- 0259 – suspicious vehicle, Carmell
- 0745 – domestic assault, Belle Villa Blvd.
- 1310 – disorderly conduct, S. Industrial Park Dr.
- 1312 – assist fire dept., San Carlos St., cancelled
- 1334 – assist citizen, S. Industrial Park Dr.
- 1944 – sexual assault, Fourth St.
- 2046 – suspicious situation, W. Columbia Ave.

### Wednesday, Dec. 16:

- 1021 – private property accident, Third St.
- 1428 – intimidation threat, Menlo Park Dr.
- 1428 – miscellaneous complaint, Belle Villa Blvd.
- 1557 – malicious destruction of property, Main St.
- 2037 – agency assist, Oxford
- 2047 – warrant arrest, Rawsonville Mobil

### Thursday, Dec. 17:

- 0003 – welfare check, Sumpter Rd.
- 0023 – suspicious situation, Church St.
- 0043 – suspicious situation, Owen St./Sumpter Rd.
- 0412 – found property, W. Columbia Ave.
- 0907 – disturbance, South St.
- 0930 – larceny, Owen

- 1018 – assist fire dept., E. Huron River Dr.
- 1145 – fraud, Main St.
- 1207 – property damage accident, Main St./High
- 1417 – disturbance, Industrial
- 1730 – agency assist, Bemis

### Friday, Dec. 18:

- 0112 – found property, W. Columbia Ave.
- 0729 – domestic assault, Light Tower Dr.
- 0944 – larceny, W. Davis St.
- 1026 – larceny, Carmell St.
- 1113 – vehicle lockout, Second St./Main St.
- 1434 – larceny, Sumpter Rd.
- 1452 – private property accident, W. Columbia
- 1613 – property damage accident, Sumpter Rd. / Industrial Park Dr.

- 2254 – water leak found, E. Huron River Dr.
- 2325 – assist fire dept., Victorian Ln.

### Saturday, Dec. 19:

- 1011 – assist fire dept., Carmell St.
  - 1110 – intrusion alarm, W. Columbia Ave.
  - 1129 – mental, Carmell
  - 1232 – narcotics crime, District Library
- Also on this week’s log are 53 traffic stops.

## Sumpter Township Police Dispatch Log

### Sunday, Dec. 13:

- 0052 – suspicious vehicle, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
- 0318 – minor in possession, Sumpter/Kozma
- 0358 – mental health commitment, Redwood
- 0427 – assist other agency, out of township
- 1024 – fire dept. assist, 43000 bl. Dunn Rd.
- 2016 – animal complaint, 44000 bl. Willow Rd.
- 2110 – civil dispute, 24000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
- 2201 – property damage accident, Willis/Sherwood
- 2344 – alarm, 28000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

### Monday, Dec. 14:

- 0556 – family trouble, 20000 bl. Sherwood Rd.
- 0755 – family trouble, California
- 0808 – fire dept. assist, 21000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
- 0912 – malicious destruction of property, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
- 0932 – alarm, 39000 bl. Wear Rd.
- 1028 – animal complaint, Harris/Savage
- 1100 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Morton Ave.
- 2302 – suspicious incident, Texas

### Tuesday, Dec. 15:

- 0034 – threats complaint, Texas
- 1330 – animal complaint, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1458 – suspicious vehicle, 22000 bl. Karr Rd.
- 1616 – identity theft, 19000 bl. Elwell Rd.
- 1729 – animal complaint, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 2124 – fire dept. assist, 18000 bl. Savage Rd.

### Wednesday, Dec. 16:

- 0644 – fire dept. assist, 23000 bl. Elwell Rd.
- 1004 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1236 – suspicious vehicle, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 1454 – warrant arrest pick up, out of township
- 1523 – personal injury accident, Harris/Haggerty
- 1605 – assist other agency, out of township
- 1710 – fire dept. assist, 19000 bl. Sumpter Rd.

### Thursday, Dec. 17:

- 1148 – death investigation, 44000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 1243 – larceny, 26000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1328 – civil dispute, 43000 bl. Arkona Rd.
- 1330 – citizen assist, 23000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1539 – suspicious vehicle, 18000 bl. Martinsville
- 1657 – warrant arrest pick up, 24000 bl. Elwell Rd.
- 1722 – alarm, 41000 bl. Bemis Rd.
- 1806 – suspicious incident, Rawsonville/Talladay
- 1933 – disorderly person, 25000 bl. Karr Rdd.

### Friday, Dec. 18:

- 0006 – warrant arrest pick up, out of township
- 1009 – trespassing, 24000 bl. Martinsville Rd.
- 1347 – suspicious incident, 29000 bl. Sumpter Rd.
- 1914 – larceny, 45000 bl. Willis Rd.
- 2246 – threats complaint, 24000 bl. Karr Rd.

### Saturday, Dec. 19:

- 0242 – suspicious incident, Rustic Ln.
- 0459 – suspicious vehicle, 17000 bl. Savage Rd.
- 0614 – civil dispute, 23000 bl. Carleton West Rd.
- 1214 – death investigation, 48000 bl. Wear Rd.
- 2231 – citizen assist, 24000 bl. Sherwood Rd.

Also on this week’s log are three follow-up investigation, 46 miscellaneous details, 169 patrol checks, and 44 traffic stops.

“Reality leaves a lot to the imagination.”  
– John Lennon



# Court watching

(continued from page 18)

## Ahmed Albaydany

Ahmed Albaydany, 30, was set for his preliminary exam for possession of analog and operating while license suspended on Nov. 28, 2014 in Van Buren Township.

His retained attorney Mosab Hamed said a plea deal had been worked out and Albadamy pled guilty to misdemeanors, driving while visibly impaired and attempt at possessing analogs. The original charges were dismissed.

Albahamy said he took medication before he drove, weaving from one lane to another and was in possession of an amphetamine.

Judge Parrott referred him to the

probation department for screening and a recommendation. The prosecutor recommended deferring sentence for 6 or 12 months and that will be determined at sentencing.

Albadamy was out on \$10,000 personal recognizance bond and VBT Officer Christopher Fey and Sgt. Jeff Gueli were the officers in charge.

## Stephen Boyd Wiley

Stephen Boyd Wiley, 54, waived his preliminary exam on a charge of possession of narcotics or cocaine on July 15 in Sumpter Township.

Judge Parrott bound him over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information on Jan. 13.

He was out on \$5,000 personal recognizance bond and Joseph Balowski

was the officer in charge.

## Johnnie Nelson Mock, III

Johnnie Nelson Mock, III, 29, was due for his preliminary exam on a charge of receiving and concealing a vehicle in Sumpter Township on Nov. 18.

His retained attorney Gary Jones told the judge that the prosecution couldn't proceed and so he made a motion for dismissal of the case. Judge Parrott granted the dismissal.

Mock had posted \$30,000/10% bond. Officer in charge was Joseph Balowski.

## Samuel Roderick Beasley

Samuel Roderick Beasley, 26, is set for his preliminary exam on Dec. 23 on two charges of assaulting a police officer on Nov. 29 in Van Buren Township. He is lodged and considered a habitual offender. His bond is set at \$10,000/10% but there is a hold on him on other charges so he won't be released.

VBT Det. Ken Toney is the officer in charge.

## Patrick Michael Wells

On Dec. 23, Patrick Michael Wells, 49, will face a charge of assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault) which occurred on April 22 in Van Buren Township. His bond was \$20,000/10%. Officer in charge is VBT Det. Toney.

## Raeanna Robertson

On Dec. 9 before Judge Green, Raeanna Robertson, 37, waived her preliminary exam and was bound over to circuit court for an arraignment on the information on Dec. 23. She is charged with operating while intoxicated - 3<sup>rd</sup> and driving while license suspended-2<sup>nd</sup> on Aug. 15 in the city of Belleville. Her retained attorney is Ray Richards and she has posted her \$7,500/10% bond. Belleville Officer Jeff Wickham is the officer in charge.

## Jeffrey Lou Toye

Jeffrey Toye, 46, waived his preliminary exam before Judge Green on Dec. 9 on a charge of operating while intoxicated in Van Buren Township on Nov. 12, 2014. Judge Green ordered him to appear at circuit court on Dec. 23 for an arraignment on the information. He is out on \$10,000 personal recognizance bond. VBT officers in charge are Officer Christopher Fey and Det. Mark Buxton.

## Court Watching:

# Second of 3 defendants in Sumpter roller rink incident arraigned

Robert Kristopher Stilson, 26, of Saginaw, was arraigned Friday in the 34th District Court for his alleged part in several crimes during an Oct. 31, 2014 private party at the Rollers Skate Park in Sumpter Township.

Sumpter Township Police Captain Eric Luke said Stilson was arraigned on a four-count warrant: one count of assault with intent to murder, one count of assault with intent to do great bodily harm less than murder, one count of robbery-armed, and one count of assault with a dangerous weapon (felonious assault).

A probable cause conference is scheduled for Dec. 30 at 34<sup>th</sup> District Court and he is currently being held on \$500,000/10% bond.

Stilson is alleged to have taken part in several separate incidents that night; including a stabbing, felonious assault, and the armed robbery of three separate security guards who were working the party. The stabbing victim, one of the three security guards involved, was transported to the hospital with life-threatening injuries, but survived and has since recovered.

Stilson was taken into custody in Saginaw on Thursday after the vehicle he was in was stopped by the Michigan State Police for a traffic infraction. He was then transferred into the custody of the Sumpter Township Police Department late Thursday night.

Stilson was charged the same as two other individuals who were alleged to have taken part in the incidents with him. One of the other co-defendants, Ralph Rosas, also of Saginaw, was convicted of all but one of the charges by a Wayne County jury on Oct. 9, 2015, and is currently serving an 18.75 - 50 year prison sentence. The third co-defendant remains at large and is actively being sought.



Robert Stilson



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